



**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## *For Immediate Release*

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**MSUE 4-H YOUTH MENTOR PROGRAM JOINS  
AMACHI MICHIGAN PROJECT TO  
MENTOR CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS**

Macomb Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Mentor program has partnered with the *Amachi Michigan* Coalition to provide mentoring to children of prisoners who reside in Macomb County. *Amachi Michigan* is a statewide project, financially supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Children, Youth and Families, and Public/Private Ventures, consisting of a coalition of mentoring organizations that are coming together as a cohesive team to provide mentoring to children of prisoners who reside in twelve Michigan counties: Wayne, Oakland, Kent, Genesee, Macomb, Muskegon, Saginaw, Kalamazoo, Berrien, Washtenaw, Jackson, and Ingham. In total, these twelve counties account for 75% of the State's total current prison inmate population (Source: Michigan Dept. of Corrections, June 2010). Parallel

to this statistic, it is estimated that 75% of all children in the State who have an incarcerated parent reside within these twelve counties. The vision of *Amachi Michigan* is to provide children of incarcerated parents with the opportunity of receiving mentors and in the process, *Breaking the Chain...and Unlocking the Door to a Child's Future*.

MSUE 4-H Youth Mentor is looking for adult volunteers

to mentor these youth. Children with an incarcerated parent can benefit from an additional adult who can help them with their homework and encourage them in school. Other children may enjoy playing games and sports with their mentor. Mentors can provide an empathetic ear and support as children struggle with their parent's incarceration.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, or have a child with an incarcerated parent, please contact Jan Gwozdz at 586-469-7619 or [jan.gwozdz@macombcountymi.gov](mailto:jan.gwozdz@macombcountymi.gov).

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